

THE GARAGE SALE

by Rikki Schwartz

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A shopper finds the greatest invention of all time at a garage sale.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: No need to make the roles into caricatures—keep the tone of the piece as natural as possible for maximum effect.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Evangelism

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 28:19-20

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Service focusing on The Great Commission

CHARACTERS:

SELLER (Male)

SHOPPER (Male or Female)

PROPS: Garage sale items (including clock radio, picture frame, paperback books, and Barbie Doll) on display.

COSTUMES: Very casual

SOUND: 2 wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Garage/Yard Sale

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Lights up.

SELLER: *(Sitting behind table with “cash box” on it – reading a book)*

SHOPPER: *(Enters and begins to sort through items on display at garage sale – laughs when s/he picks up an item)* My Mom had one of these.

SELLER: *(Looks over at the item).* So did mine – that’s it. *(Smiles - Goes back to reading).*

SHOPPER: You got lucky with the weather. It rained all day the day we had our garage sale. It was miserable.

SELLER: I’m just glad it’s not too hot.

SHOPPER: *(Comes upon a clock radio)* How much for the clock radio?

SELLER: 75 cents.

SHOPPER: Will you take fifty?

SELLER: Sure.

SHOPPER: *(Comes upon a picture frame)* How much for this picture frame?

SELLER: 50 cents.

SHOPPER: Will you take 25?

SELLER: Yeah.

SHOPPER: *(Picks up frame and moves onto a large box of paperbacks)* How much for the paperbacks?

SELLER: 25 cents each.

SHOPPER: Will you take 20?

SELLER: *(Sighs)* Why not.

SHOPPER: *(Sorts through them for a few seconds, and grabs a couple to purchase)* Who’s the Grisham fan?

SELLER: Our daughter.

SHOPPER: *(Chuckles)* Ours too. *(Scans the area)* Speaking of which, I was really looking for small kitchen appliances – she’s starting college in the fall. Do you have any?

SELLER: Sorry, no.

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SHOPPER: No problem. I'll just take these (*Starts to walk over to SELLER to pay for the stuff, but sees something on a table and stops to pick it up.*) What's this? (*Turns it over and reads the bottom*) G-O-O (*Speaks each letter individually*), goo?

SELLER: (*Looks over at what SHOPPER is holding up – nonchalantly*) No, "G, O, D". It's a Geophotonic Object Displacer. (*Digging through cash box*) I hope you've got singles for that stuff, cuz the last guy paid for a turkey-baster with a 50 dollar bill.

SHOPPER: What's it for?

SELLER: I don't know – bastes turkeys I assume.

SHOPPER: No, this thing.

SELLER: Oh. It's a Transporter.

SHOPPER: A what?

SELLER: A Transporter.

SHOPPER: What's a Transporter?

SELLER: (*Busy retrieving and opening a bag for the items SHOPPER is about to purchase while he talks*) It uses light photons combined with neurotransmitters in your brain to transport things or people from one place to another.

SHOPPER: You mean like "Beam me up, Scottie"?

SELLER: Sort of, yes.

SHOPPER: (*Tongue-in-cheek*) Do you have the phaser and cloaking device to go with it?

SELLER: (*Smiles politely*) 'Fraid not.

SHOPPER: (*Studying it*) Where'd you get it, a Star Trek Convention or something?

SELLER: No -

SHOPPER: It's actually pretty cool. My nephew loves Sci Fi – I'll get it for him.

SELLER: It's not really a toy.

SHOPPER: (*Slightly condescending*) Don't worry, I know how you Trekkies are about your Sci Fi memorabilia – I'll tell him to be careful with it.

SELLER: No. I mean it's really not a toy. It's real. It's a real transporter. You'd have to supervise your nephew if -

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SHOPPER: (*Clearly Unbelieving*) Excuse me?

SELLER: (*Sighs*) Never mind. Will that be it for you?

SHOPPER: You're not trying to say that this thing moves -

SELLER: (*Correcting SHOPPER*) teleports

SHOPPER: (*Unimpressed*) Sorry, "teleports" stuff from one place to another. Through space. Invisibly.

SELLER: Actually, yes, but as long as you don't put batteries in it, your nephew will be safe.

SHOPPER: (*Mocking*) Batteries, of course. I bet it goes through batteries like crazy, particularly if you're like...beaming something really...bulky.

SELLER: Actually, 4 double-As will give you about 50 transports, give or take. Size of the object doesn't matter, but great distances and organic matter do seem to drain the batteries a little more.

SHOPPER: (*Dryly*) Goes without saying.

SELLER: (*Tired of SHOPPER's sarcasm*) Look, I'm not forcing the thing on you. Take it if you want it, don't if you don't.

SHOPPER: Look - I'm not trying to be rude. But, you're not going to stand there and tell me that you're selling a device so technologically advanced that it obliterates everything we currently know about quantum physics...at a yard sale.

SELLER: My wife prefers to refer to this as a garage sale, but yes.

SHOPPER: Alongside the Garden Weasel and the Barbie Dolls.

SELLER: Hey. (*Points*) That Twist-n-Turn Barbie is a collector's item.

SHOPPER: Yes, but Twist-n-Turn Barbie can't, oh I don't know, eliminate the need for planes, trains and automobiles... thereby profoundly reducing the world's dependence on oil, and with it the associated wars, not to mention air, water pollution and global warming. Twist-n-Turn Barbie can't eliminate the tens of thousands of traffic-related deaths per year. Twist-n-Turn Barbie can't re-allocate the billions of dollars currently spent on roads and bridges to health care and poverty. So, excuse me if I think you are full 'a photons.

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SELLER: (*More fatigued/defensive than enthused*) Look, all I can tell you is that my family and I have been using the thing for years, that it is as amazing and wonderful as it sounds, and that it has changed our lives forever.

SHOPPER: Then why are you selling it??? Are you tired of “amazing and wonderful”?

SELLER: That’s an extra. (*Beat*) Look – it will change your life...but it’s up to you.

SHOPPER: Why haven’t I seen these in the news? (*Even more astonishing come to think of it...*) Or a Hammacher Schlemmer Catalog???

SELLER: (*Sighs*) They’ve been in the news, believe me. The G.O.D. has been around for ages, but everyone thought it was too good to be true, so they accused the distributors of using slight-of-hand or special effects in their advertising. Eventually there were class action suits, criminal trials, mass imprisonments.... it got pretty messy. And even though nobody could prove that the CEO had done anything criminal, he was eventually executed by the government. Needless to say, the company folded, but these things have been quietly moving underground ever since.

SHOPPER: (*Unconvinced*) So how did you get one?

SELLER: (*Aggravated*) Do you really want to know, or are you just - ?

SHOPPER: No, I’m curious.

SELLER: My brother brought me back a few units from overseas, and told me that it had changed his life. And yes, I thought he was drunk at first, especially because it didn’t work when I tried it, but he encouraged me to keep reading the Bible and since it relies on neurotransmitters in your brain, to really REALLY concentrate, and believe it would work.

SHOPPER: Keep reading the what?

SELLER: Sorry – the User’s Manual. (*Pointing*) It’s right there.

SHOPPER: (*SHOPPER is reading off cover of booklet*) Basic Instructions -

SELLER: Before Launching Equipment. B.I.B.L.E. – Bible (*Pronounced bibble*) for short. Believe me, nobody could figure out the G-O-D without the “bible”.

SHOPPER: (*Flipping through the booklet*). It’s long!

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SELLER: Yeah – that’s why it takes a while to get the hang of it. But I kept reading and practicing, and finally one day I moved a bag of groceries from my car onto the kitchen counter. (*Chuckles*) Scared the Skittles out of my wife. From that point on, my family and I became devoted Teleporters – “Porters” for short.

SHOPPER: You’re tele-nuts.

SELLER: And that’s why you don’t see it on the news or in catalogs -- because we know that everyone else would think that Porters are delusional...or worse. So, we keep pretty much to ourselves...except for the occasional Porters’ picnic or National Porters’ Convention. Oh, and my kids go to a Porters’ Camp in Seattle.

SHOPPER: So, you’ve been teleporting all these years, and haven’t told a single non – tele..

SELLER: Aporterist...and no, you’re pretty much the first.

SHOPPER: But, if what you say is true, you could have changed the course of history, saved millions of lives, not to mention hours...and dollars. In short, you could have reduced human suffering exponentially. Don’t you feel some sort of responsibility to share the news of this thing for Pete’s sake??

SELLER: Look, don’t judge me; I’m only one person. I am a decent, responsible Porter, and I’m doing what I think is right for me and my family. If you want to buy the dog-gone thing and...change the world...go right ahead!!

SHOPPER: (*Examines it further / Considers it*) How much do you want for it?

SELLER: A dollar.

SHOPPER: Will you take 50 cents? (*Rim shot optional*)

..... *Lights down*

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